



PROJECT EXPERIENCE FLOTTA OIL TERMINAL (1973 ONGOING)

Following the discovery of oil in the Piper field in January 1973 and a subsequent discovery in the Claymore field in May 1974, the Occidental Group sited an oil terminal on the Orkney island of Flotta in the southern reaches of Scapa Flow, off the north coast of Scotland, ERT (Scotland) Ltd was engaged as consultant to advise on marine environmental matters, including oily water treatment facilities and effluent discharge.

"The development of Flotta illustrates the value of an effective working relationship between the technical officers of the planning authority, the advisory agencies, and the technical staff of the terminal, with Occidental's environmental consultants acting as an authoritative point of reference to all parties. The committed and effective use of Environmental Impact Assessment procedures and the consultants' central role in providing advice, undertaking assessment and design, have served to raise the perception of the problems by all concerned, with an understanding of the alternative courses of action, in turn promoting the rapid implementation of a mutually acceptable solution."

Director of Planning and Development for Orkney Islands Council (1981).

The environmental protection policy developed at Flotta has received commendation nationally and has attracted a great deal of international interest.

In 2006 ERT completed a comprehensive review of all the monitoring data around Flotta over a 30 year period to assess any long-term spatial or temporal trends in the monitoring data, and to make recommendations for monitoring in the future.

ONGOING ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

Terminal operations began in December 1976, since then ERT (Scotland) Ltd (ERT) has provided continuous consultancy support to Occidental including an ongoing monitoring programme to assess the potential impact of operations on the marine environment. In 1992 the Flotta terminal was sold by Occidental to Elf Enterprise Caledonia (EE Cal), and subsequently to Talisman Energy UK Ltd, who have also retained ERT as environmental consultants.

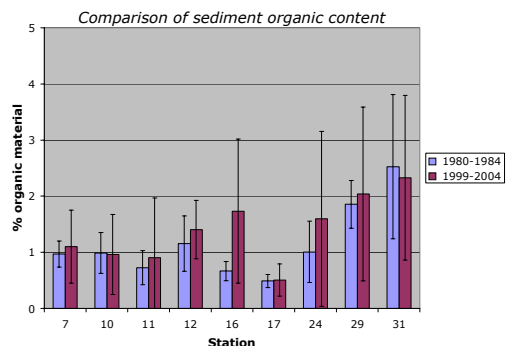
Hermit crab photographed during monitoring studies



During the time that ERT has been involved with the Flotta terminal, a number of key studies regarding the environmental effects of the terminals operations have been conducted, these have included:

- development of all marine aspects of the environmental impact assessment for the terminal;
- evaluation of environmental aspects of specific waste handling requirements;
- audit of process/effluent treatment problems;
- advise on the location and design of a treated effluent outfall;
- assessment of novel methods of assessing impact on marine ecosystems;

- provision of specific advice to terminal management on environmental issues;
- design and execution of the statutory annual environmental monitoring programme biannually to assess the impact of the terminal on the marine environment;
- the provision of regular advice on spill contingency planning and the establishment of a predictive computer modelling programme for oil spills in Scapa Flow;
- representation on behalf of the operator at meetings with Government and local authority;
- an assessment of the terminal's current waste management system, and the introduction of a new waste reduction strategy;



- preparation of a ten year review of terminal operations and impact on the environment;
- the production of a VOC reduction programme for the terminal;
- environmental issues identification (ENVID) co-ordinated by ERT to assist in the development of a waste minimisation programme.